

May 23, 2000

Joseph Levitt, Director
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Food and Drug Administration
200 C Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20204
oco2@cfsan.fda.gov

1342 '00 JUN 12 P2:18

Re: Bottled-water Industry

Dear Sir,

After reading the article in the Nutrition Action Healthletter, June, 2000 issue entitled "Water, Water Everywhere", I am reminded of the amount of water that I personally consume and the added health concerns that may be absorbed with my water intake! I hereby inform you that I agree with the following statement found in the June NAH:

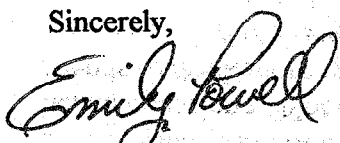
"Consumers have the right to know what's in their bottled water. As a member of the Center for Science in the public Interest, I support the FDA's proposal that bottled-water manufacturers be required to make available detailed reports of contaminants, just as public water utilities do. All bottled-water labels should also disclose where the water comes from."

I am one of the 40 million Americans who experience IBS (Irritable Bowel Syndrom) every year. IBS is a medical condition that affects up to 20% of our adults. Being under the care of a physician who recommends that I drink a minimum of eight, eight ounce, glasses of water a day plus many other dietary corrections, makes me very health conscious. Not only do I try to consume the proper amount of water but, I urge each of my loved ones and friends to drink more water to hydrate their bodies after sports or just for better health. At home my husband, who is an environmental engineer, installed a water filtering system in our home that filters many contaminants including Cryptosporidium and Giardia. I often fill bottles for use each day at the office or for outdoor activities.

Many people drink bottled-water for various reasons. They live with medical conditions that are improved with an increase in water intake and bottled water is an easy way to keep track of the amount consumed. People consume bottled-water because they feel they can not afford fancy filtering systems. Many high school athletes must drink water to replace the fluids in their bodies and bottled-water is the method the schools enforce this necessity. Others consume bottled-water for the simplest of reasons, they prefer the taste. And some like the self-image of carrying a bottle of expensive water. On a cruise to the Caribbean, we were given bottled water when we left the ship in Mexico. My sister for one, drank bottled-water during both her pregnancies. She was of the belief that the bottled-water was purer then tap water. What a tragedy it would have been if she and/or one of her babies had subsequently consumed tainted water! The bottling companies to this day have no regulations making them required to include on the label the origin of the water or offer to provide the consumers detailed reports of the contaminants.

This issue effects all of us. Please help us know that our drinking water, whether tap or bottled, is as pure as it looks and tastes!

Sincerely,

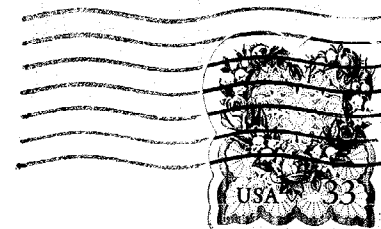


Emily J. Powell
1801 W. Lincoln St.
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
PalsinOK@aol.com

97N-0436

C123

Steve and Emily Powell
1801 W. Lincoln Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012



la

Joseph Levitt, Director
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Food and Drug Administration
200 C Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20204

